DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 224 420 HE 015 742

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TITLE Earned Degrees, by Racial/Ethnic Status: 1978-79. Special Report.
INSTITUTION National Center for Education Statistics (ED), Washington, DC.
REPORT NO NCES-82-239
PUB DATE Nov 82
NOTE 31p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Statistical Data (110)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS American Indians; Asian Americans; Bachelors Degrees; Blacks; *College Graduates; Comparative Analysis; *Degrees (Academic); Doctoral Degrees; *Ethnic Groups; Foreign Students; Graduate Study; Higher Education; Hispanic Americans; *Majors (Students); Masters Degrees; Minority Groups; National Surveys; *Professional Education; *Racial Distribution; Trend Analysis; Undergraduate Study; Whites

ABSTRACT

Data on college degrees awarded in the United States in 1979 are examined by racial/ethnic status of the recipients. Approximately 920,000 bachelor's degrees and over 400,000 postbaccalaureate degrees were awarded nationally. In 1979, 87.3 percent of bachelor's degrees went to white graduates, with the next largest portion (6.6 percent) going to blacks. Bachelor's degrees were awarded to 3,410 American Indians, 15,407 Asians, and 17,839 nonresident aliens. Although Hispanics accounted for 6.4 of the population, they accounted for only 2.2 percent of all bachelor's degrees. Business and management was among the top three degree fields for all groups, while education was the field most often chosen among blacks and American Indians. Engineering was the top choice of nonresident aliens, and social sciences ranked number three for each of the groups and for all groups combined. Of the 300,255 master's degrees awarded, 83 percent went to whites, and blacks and nonresident aliens each accounted for 6.5 percent. Education ranked first for all groups except Asians and nonresident aliens, and business and management was either first or second for all groups. Public affairs and services and engineering were also frequently selected. A total of 32,675 doctoral degrees were awarded, and 80 percent went to whites. The second largest number went to nonresident aliens. Three fields were among the top five for all groups: education, social sciences, and biological sciences. The field of physical sciences was among the top five for all groups except Hispanics. Lastly, 68,611 first-professional degrees were awarded, 91 percent to whites, and the next largest number to blacks. Law was by far the largest field, followed by medicine, theology, and dentistry. (SW)

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Special report
National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement

Date: November 1982

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Earned Degrees, by Racial/Ethnic Status: 1978-79

In 1978-79, the Nation's colleges and universities awarded almost 920,000 bachelor's degrees, and over 400,000 postbaccalaureate degrees (see table 1). An examination of the degree award data by racial/ethnic status of the recipients provides a basis for comparing the educational attainments of different population subgroups.*

To put these attainment data into perspective, it is useful to compare the percentage distribution of various racial/ethnic groups earning degrees at the bachelor's level or higher with their percentage distribution in the total U.S. population. Based on preliminary estimates from the 1980 decennial census, 79.6 percent identified themselves as white non-Hispanic, 11.5 percent black non-Hispanic, 0.6 percent American Indian, 1.5 percent Asian, 6.4 percent Hispanic origin and 0.4 percent "Other." "Other" includes such groups as Cambodians, Laotians and Thai. There are no census counts for nonresident aliens. These racial/ethnic categories are comparable to those reported in the survey of earned degrees.

Bachelor's Degrees

In 1979, 919,540 bachelor's degrees were awarded by the Nation's institutions of higher education (within the 50 States and D.C.). The vast majority of these degrees (87.3 percent) went to white graduates, with the next largest portion (6.6 percent) going to blacks. The remaining 6.1 percent were distributed among the remaining groups (see table 2).

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*While nonresident aliens do not comprise a racial/ethnic subgroup, they are included in this report as a separate subgroup.

Bachelor's degrees were awarded to 3,410 American Indians, who constituted 0.4 percent of all bachelor's degree recipients and somewhat less than 0.6 percent of the population. Their representation in the various fields ranged from 0 percent for military science to 0.6 percent for public affairs and services.

A total of 15,407 Asians received a bachelor's degree in 1979, or 1.7 percent of all such degrees awarded. This is approximately the same percentage (1.5) as Asians constitute of the U. S. population. Their percentage representation in certain fields was somewhat higher, e.g., area studies (3.5 percent), engineering (3.0 percent) and biological sciences (3.0 percent). Their representation was very low in certain other fields, e.g., military science (0.3 percent), library science (0.4 percent), education (0.6 percent) and theology (0.6 percent).

Nonresident aliens received a total of 17,839 bachelor's degrees, 1.9 percent of the total. Their representation in certain fields was much higher, e.g., engineering (7.6 percent), computer and information sciences (4.3 percent), and architecture and environmental design (3.8 percent).

Although Hispanics accounted for 6.4 percent of the population, they accounted for only 2.2 percent of all bachelor's degrees. Their representation was much stronger in one field: foreign languages at 8.9 percent. The data do not permit identification of the particular foreign languages in which the degrees were awarded.

Although blacks accounted for 11.5 percent of the population, they accounted for 6.6 percent of all bachelor's degrees. Their percentage was appreciably higher in certain fields: education at 9.1 percent and public affairs and services at 11.8 percent.

(This latter field includes such subfields as: community services, public administration, social work, and law enforcement.) Blacks had a relatively low representation in agriculture and natural resources (1.5 percent), theology (2.6 percent), physical sciences (3.0 percent), foreign languages (3.0 percent), and engineering (2.8 percent).

Whites accounted for the majority of degrees in all fields. Their highest percentage was in agriculture and natural resources (93.8 percent) and their lowest was in public affairs and services (82.8 percent).

Rankings of Different Fields - The distributions among discipline divisions of all the bachelor's degrees received by each racial/ethnic group offer indications of the relative popularity of the different fields for each group (table 3).

All six groups were fairly similar in their choice of degree fields. Business and management was among the top three for all groups and was the favorite among Asians, Hispanics, and whites. Education was the field most often chosen among blacks and American Indians. Engineering was the top choice of nonresident aliens, accounting for 26.7 percent of their bachelor's degrees. No other group had such a high percentage choosing a single field. Engineering ranked number two among the Asians but did not appear among the top three for any of the other racial/ethnic groups. Social sciences ranked number three for each of the six groups and for all groups combined.

Each of the remaining fields accounted for only a very small percentage of the degrees awarded. It is thus clear that a mere handful of degree fields account for the majority of the degrees awarded. This is true for all of the racial/ethnic groups, although the tendency to concentrate in just a few fields was most pronounced among the nonresident aliens. For that group, the three fields of engineering, business and management, and social sciences together accounted for 56 percent of all degrees awarded.

The table below summarizes, for each racial/ethnic group and for nonresident aliens, the five fields most often chosen and shows the percentage of bachelor's degree recipients who majored in each.

The five most popular fields for bachelor's degrees,
for each racial/ethnic group and nonresident aliens, 1978-79

White, non-Hispanic	
Business & management	18.8%
Education	13.6
Social sciences	11.5
Health professions	6.9
Engineering	6.6
	57.4%

Black, non-Hispanic	
Education	19.1%
Business & management	19.0
Social sciences	15.0
Public affairs & services	7.5
Health professions	5.6
	66.2%

American Indian/Alaskan Native	
Education	18.9%
Business & management	14.8
Social sciences	14.6
Public affairs & services	6.4
Health professions	6.0
	60.7%

Asian or Pacific Islander	
Business & Management	20.4%
Engineering	12.1
Social sciences	10.4
Biological sciences	9.5
Health professions	7.1
	59.5%

Hispanic	
Business & management	15.9%
Education	15.1
Social sciences	14.6
Psychology	6.0
Public affairs & services	5.9
	57.5%

Nonresident Alien	
Engineering	26.7%
Business & management	19.6
Social sciences	9.7
Biological sciences	5.0
Education	4.9
	65.9%

Master's Degrees

Of the 300,255 master's degrees awarded by institutions of higher education in the Nation in 1979, 83 percent went to whites. Blacks and nonresident aliens each accounted for 6.5 percent of all master's degrees awarded. The remaining 4 percent were distributed among American Indians, Asians, and Hispanics (table 4).

Since American Indians accounted for only 0.3 percent of the total, their effect on specific fields is barely noticeable. Asians, with 1.8 percent, and Hispanics, with 1.9 percent, registered a slightly more measurable impact. Both groups were represented at higher percentages in certain fields. For Asians, these were: engineering (5.5 percent), computer and information science (5.0 percent), area studies (4.6 percent), mathematics (3.4 percent), and physical and biological sciences (3.0 percent each). Hispanics showed relatively high representation in foreign languages (8.3 percent) and area studies (4.2 percent). They had especially small representation in computer and information science (0.8 percent), agriculture and natural resources (0.9 percent), home economics (0.9 percent), and mathematics (0.9 percent).

Although blacks accounted for 6.5 percent of all master's degrees, their percentage representation was appreciably higher in certain fields: public affairs and services (10.2 percent) and education (9.7 percent). Their representation in certain other fields was low: engineering (1.6 percent), physical sciences (1.6 percent), foreign languages (1.9 percent), and agriculture and natural resources (2.0 percent).

Nonresident aliens, as previously indicated, also accounted for 6.5 percent of all the master's degrees. However, their areas of heaviest representation tended to differ from those of other subgroups. They were strongly represented in engineering (25.8 percent), law (19.8 percent), agriculture and natural resources (18.2 percent), mathematics (15.6 percent), computer and information sciences (15.5 percent), physical sciences (13.1 percent), and area studies (12.6 percent).

Whites, who received 83.0 percent of all master's degrees, accounted for a majority of the degrees in every field. They ranked even higher in certain fields: fine and applied arts (90.2 percent), military science (89.5 percent), and interdisciplinary studies (88.7 percent). Whites ranked somewhat lower than might be expected in: engineering (65.6 percent, due largely to the fact that nonresident aliens accounted for such a large percentage of the degrees in this field); law (75.0 percent); and computer and information science (75.9 percent).

Rankings of Different Fields - As with bachelor's degrees, the master's degree fields chosen most often were similar among the six racial/ethnic subgroups (table 5). Education ranked first for all groups except Asians and nonresident aliens (for whom business and management ranked first). Business and management was either first or second for all groups. Public affairs and services ranked third for four of the groups, the exceptions again being Asians and nonresident aliens. Engineering ranked second among nonresident aliens and third among Asians but was much lower for the other groups.

All groups showed substantial concentration in a small number of fields, but this tendency was most pronounced among blacks. Over half (55.7 percent) of the black recipients of master's degrees in 1979 earned them in education. No other group was so highly concentrated in one field. The three fields of education, business and management, and public affairs and services accounted for 77.3 percent of all master's degrees awarded to blacks.

American Indians also showed substantial concentration in education, which accounted for 45.1 percent of their master's degrees. The second and third most common fields were business and management and public affairs and services (13.5 and 8.1 percent, respectively). Fields with the lowest percentages were area studies and communications (0.2 percent each).

Among Asians, 22.6 percent of those receiving master's degrees earned them in business and management. Education ranked second at 17.2 percent. Fields with the smallest proportions of Asians earning degrees were law and theology (0.5 percent each).

Among Hispanics, education again ranked number one, with 46.0 percent. Among the fields with the lowest percentage of Hispanics were home economics (0.4 percent), computer and information sciences (0.5 percent), and mathematics (also 0.5 percent).

Nonresident aliens showed their highest percentage in business and management, which accounted for 22.7 percent of their master's degrees. Among the least chosen fields for this group were area studies (0.5 percent) and home economics (0.7 percent).

Whites also showed their highest concentration in education (37.7 percent). Business and management ranked second at 16.7 percent. Least popular fields for whites were area studies and law (0.2 and 0.5 percent, respectively).

Doctoral Degrees

A total of 32,675 doctoral degrees were awarded in 1979 by colleges and universities in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. While the largest share (80.0 percent) went to whites, the size of the whites' majority at the doctoral degree level was smaller than it was at any other degree level. The second largest share (12.0 percent) went to nonresident aliens, who had their largest percentage representation at this level (table 6). Asians also had a larger share at this level (2.5 percent) than at the bachelor's and master's levels.

As occurred at other levels, American Indians, Asians and Hispanics were represented in small proportions (0.3, 2.5 and 1.3 percent respectively). A breakdown of specific degree fields, however, shows a higher representation in certain fields, especially for Asians and Hispanics. Asians' share of engineering degrees, for example, was 7.3 percent, and their portion of degrees in mathematics was 4.0 percent. Hispanics accounted for 6.9 percent of all doctorates in foreign languages and 3.1 percent of doctorates in architecture and environmental design.

Although blacks accounted for about 4 percent of all doctoral degrees, their percentage representation was appreciably higher in certain fields: area studies (9.0 percent), public affairs and services (8.4 percent), and education (8.1 percent). Their representation in certain other fields was quite low: engineering (1.0 percent), biological sciences (1.3 percent), agriculture and natural resources (1.5 percent), and physical sciences (1.5 percent).

Nonresident aliens earned 3,915 doctoral degrees in 1979, or 12 percent of all doctorates awarded that year. They accounted for over a third of the doctorates in certain fields: law (37.0 percent), engineering (34.7 percent), and architecture and environmental design (34.4 percent). They were also strongly represented in agriculture and natural resources (28.2 percent), mathematics (22.2 percent), and computer and information sciences (20.3 percent).

As would be expected, whites accounted for a substantial majority of the doctorates in all fields.

Rankings of Different Fields - Considerable similarity exists among racial/ethnic groups in their choice of different fields of study, although somewhat less than was evident at the lower degree levels (table 7). Three fields were among the top five for all groups: education, social sciences, and biological sciences. Physical sciences was among the top five for all groups except Hispanics. Education ranked high for blacks and American Indians, accounting for 49.3 percent and 41.3 percent, respectively. Education also ranked number one among Hispanics and whites, but with somewhat smaller percentages, 31.0 and 24.2, respectively.

Among blacks who received doctorates in 1979, almost half (49.3 percent) received them in education. No other group had such a large percentage in one field. The next most common fields for blacks were social sciences and psychology (10.4 and 8.8 percent, respectively).

The small number of American Indians who received doctorates were distributed across fields in much the same pattern as were blacks. The top three fields in order of popularity were education (41.3 percent), social sciences (16.3 percent), and psychology (9.6 percent).

Among the Asian doctoral degree recipients, the field most often chosen was engineering with 22.6 percent. Second and third choices were biological sciences and physical sciences (15.7 and 14.9 percent, respectively). Education accounted for only 12.0 percent of the doctorates awarded to Asians.

Among Hispanics, education was the most popular field, accounting for 31.0 percent of the Hispanic doctorate recipients. Psychology and foreign languages ranked second and third (14.6 and 10.0 percent, respectively.)

Nonresident aliens were most highly concentrated in engineering (22.1 percent). In fact, this group and Asians were the only two groups for whom engineering was among the top five most chosen fields.

The most popular field among whites was education (24.2 percent). It may be recalle that education was also the most often chosen among blacks, Indians, and Hispanics. Biological sciences and social sciences ranked second and third at 11.4 and 10.2 percent, respectively.

First-Professional Degrees

A first-professional degree is defined as one which meets all three of the following criteria: (1) it signifies completion of the academic requirements to begin practice in a profession; (2) it is based on a program which requires at least 2 years of college work before entrance; and (3) it requires a total of at least 6 academic years of college work to complete the degree program including prior required college work plus the length of the professional curriculum itself.

In 1979, a total of 68,611 first-professional degrees were awarded by institutions in the United States (table 8). The size of the whites' majority was larger at this degree level than at any other (91.0 percent). Nonresident aliens accounted for only 0.9 percent. Blacks were the second largest component among recipients of first-professional degrees and accounted for 4.1 percent of the total. The remaining groups had small representation.

The highest representation for blacks was in the field of medicine (5.2 percent), measuring only slightly smaller in theological professions (4.5 percent) and law (4.3 percent). Blacks had very small representation in chiropractic (0.4 percent) and optometry (1.1 percent).

American Indians accounted for 0.3 percent of first-professional degrees. Their percentage representation in different fields was correspondingly small.

Asians accounted for 1.8 percent of first-professional degrees but had a suprisingly large representation in pharmacy (17.5 percent). Pharmacy is a very small degree field; there were only 639 Doctor of Pharmacy degrees awarded. Most pharmacists first earn a bachelor's degree in this field, serve a year's apprenticeship, and then pass a licensing examination. Data are not available concerning the number of Asians who received a bachelor's degree in pharmacy. Asians also had relatively strong representation in optometry (4.3 percent) and dentistry (3.6 percent).

Hispanics received 1.9 percent of all first-professional degrees. Their fields of highest representation were medicine and law (2.2 and 2.1 percent, respectively).

Nonresident aliens, who comprised high percentages of degree recipients at the master's and doctoral levels, accounted for 0.9 percent of all first-professional degrees. The actual number of recipients was 641. Their strongest representation was in chiropractic (6.4 percent), pharmacy (5.2 percent), and theological professions (3.0 percent).

Whites predominated in all fields but less markedly in pharmacy, where Asians and nonresident aliens had large representations. In all other fields, whites accounted for approximately 90 percent or more of the first-professional degrees awarded.

Rankings of Different Fields - Law was by far the largest field, accounting for 51.3 percent of all first-professional degrees awarded. Medicine ranked second at 21.6 percent (table 9). Third and fourth positions went to theology and dentistry (9.3 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively.) The rankings of the different fields were in general highly similar across the racial/ethnic groups.

Additional Information

Information about the Center's statistical programs and a catalogue of NCES publications may be obtained from the Statistical Information Office, National Center for Education Statistics (Mail Stop 1001), 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (301) 436-7900.

Table 1.--Earned degrees, by racial/ethnic group: 50 States and D.C.,* 1978-79

Level of degree	Total	Black non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Non-resident alien	White, non-Hispanic
				Number			
Bachelor's	919,540	60,246	3,410	15,407	20,096	17,839	802,542
Post baccalaureate	401,541						
Master's	300,255	19,418	999	5,496	5,555	19,427	249,360
Doctoral	32,675	1,268	104	811	439	3,915	26,138
First-professional	68,611	2,836	216	1,205	1,283	641	62,430
				Percentage distribution			
Bachelor's	100.0	6.6	0.4	1.7	2.2	1.9	87.3
Post baccalaureate							
Master's	100.0	6.5	0.3	1.8	1.9	6.5	83.0
Doctoral	100.0	3.9	0.3	2.5	1.3	12.0	80.0
First-professional	100.0	4.1	0.3	1.8	1.9	0.9	91.0

*Includes U.S. Service Schools.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 2.-- Distribution of bachelor's degrees among racial/ethnic groups, by field of study: 50 States and D.C.,* 1978-79

Field of study	Total		Black, non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Non-resident alien	White, non-Hispanic
	Number	Percent						
			Percentage distribution					
All fields	919,540	100.0	6.6	0.4	1.7	2.2	1.9	87.3
Agriculture and natural resources	23,134	100.0	1.5	0.4	1.4	0.9	2.1	93.8
Architecture and environmental design	9,273	100.0	3.4	0.3	2.4	2.5	3.8	87.6
Area studies	2,586	100.0	3.2	0.3	3.5	3.2	1.8	87.9
Biological sciences	48,831	100.0	5.1	0.3	3.0	2.3	1.8	87.5
Business & management	172,784	100.0	6.6	0.3	1.8	1.9	2.0	87.4
Communications	26,442	100.0	7.6	0.3	1.0	1.5	1.1	88.6
Computer and information sciences	8,718	100.0	5.8	0.1	3.0	1.8	4.3	84.9
Education	125,786	100.0	9.1	0.5	0.6	2.4	0.7	86.6
Engineering	62,342	100.0	2.8	0.3	3.0	1.8	7.6	84.5
Fine & applied arts	40,708	100.0	4.6	0.4	1.7	1.8	1.4	90.0
Foreign languages	11,818	100.0	3.0	0.2	1.8	8.9	2.4	83.7
Health professions	62,085	100.0	5.4	0.3	1.8	1.7	1.0	89.8
Home economics	18,259	100.0	6.5	0.4	2.1	0.9	1.2	88.8
Law	670	100.0	7.9	0.4	1.0	2.8	0.1	87.6
Letters	41,994	100.0	5.2	0.3	1.0	1.5	1.1	90.9
Library science	558	100.0	8.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.9	89.1
Mathematics	11,804	100.0	5.5	0.3	2.7	1.7	3.1	86.6
Military science	347	100.0	2.3	0	0.3	2.0	1.7	93.7
Physical sciences	23,198	100.0	3.0	0.3	1.9	1.5	3.0	90.3
Psychology	42,455	100.0	7.6	0.4	1.8	2.9	1.0	86.3
Public affairs & services	38,249	100.0	11.8	0.6	1.1	3.1	0.6	82.8
Social sciences	108,324	100.0	8.4	0.5	1.5	2.7	1.6	85.4
Theology	5,898	100.0	2.6	0.2	0.6	1.2	1.9	93.4
Interdisciplinary studies	33,277	100.0	7.2	0.5	1.7	2.7	1.6	86.2

*Includes U.S. Service Schools.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 3.--Percentage distribution of bachelor's degrees among fields of study, by racial/ethnic group: 50 States and D.C.,* 1978-79

Field of study	Total	Black, non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Non-resident alien	White, non-Hispanic
All fields	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture and natural resources	2.5	0.6	2.5	2.1	1.0	2.7	2.7
Architecture & environmental design	1.0	0.5	0.7	1.5	1.1	2.0	1.0
Area studies	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3
Biological sciences	5.3	4.1	4.4	9.5	5.5	5.0	5.3
Business & management	18.8	19.0	14.8	20.4	15.9	19.6	18.8
Communications	2.9	3.3	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.6	2.9
Computer and information sciences	0.9	0.8	0.3	1.7	0.8	2.1	0.9
Education	13.7	19.1	18.9	5.1	15.1	4.9	13.6
Engineering	6.8	2.9	4.8	12.1	5.6	26.7	6.6
Fine and applied arts	4.4	3.1	5.0	4.6	3.7	3.1	4.6
Foreign languages	1.3	0.6	0.6	1.4	5.2	1.6	1.2
Health professions	6.8	5.6	6.0	7.1	5.3	3.4	6.9
Economics	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.5	0.9	1.2	2.0
Law	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.1
Letters	4.6	3.6	3.2	2.7	3.1	2.7	4.8
Library science	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	1.3	1.1	1.2	2.1	1.0	2.0	1.3
Military science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical sciences	2.5	1.2	1.8	2.8	1.7	3.9	2.6
Psychology	4.6	5.3	5.2	5.0	6.0	2.5	4.6
Public affairs & services	4.2	7.5	6.4	2.7	5.9	1.4	3.9
Social sciences	11.8	15.0	14.6	10.4	14.6	9.7	11.5
Theology	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.7
Interdisciplinary studies	3.6	4.0	4.5	3.7	4.5	3.1	3.6

*Includes U.S. Service Schools.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 4.-- Distribution of master's degrees among racial/ethnic groups, by field of study: 50 States and D.C.,* 1978-79

Field of study	Total		Black, non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Non-resident alien	White, non-Hispanic
	Number	Percent	Percentage distribution					
All fields	300,255	100.0	6.5	0.3	1.8	1.9	6.5	83.0
Agriculture and natural resources	3,994	100.0	2.0	0.1	2.6	0.9	18.2	76.3
Architecture & environmental design	3,113	100.0	3.7	0.2	3.0	1.9	11.2	79.9
Area studies	738	100.0	2.0	0.3	4.6	4.2	12.6	0
Biological sciences	6,831	100.0	3.2	0.2	3.0	1.0	6.8	85.0
Business & management	50,237	100.0	4.3	0.3	2.5	1.2	8.8	83.0
Communications	2,880	100.0	5.2	0.1	1.7	1.1	6.7	85.2
Computer & information sciences	2,993	100.0	2.2	0.5	5.0	0.8	15.5	75.9
Education	111,487	100.0	9.7	0.2	0.8	2.3	2.5	84.3
Engineering	15,362	100.0	1.6	0.2	5.5	1.3	25.8	65.6
Fine & applied arts	8,502	100.0	3.0	0.4	1.7	1.4	3.4	90.2
Foreign languages	2,426	100.0	1.9	0.1	1.6	8.3	8.7	79.4
Health professions	15,485	100.0	5.2	0.4	1.4	1.2	4.1	86.7
Home economics	2,510	100.0	4.8	0.2	2.0	0.9	5.6	86.4
Law	1,647	100.0	1.6	0.2	1.6	1.7	19.8	75.0
Letters	8,883	100.0	3.7	0.2	1.4	1.7	4.9	88.2
Library science	5,906	100.0	5.2	0.2	1.8	1.3	3.3	88.2
Mathematics	3,033	100.0	2.3	0.3	3.4	0.9	15.6	77.5
Military science	38	100.0	5.3	0	0	2.6	2.6	89.5
Physical sciences	5,406	100.0	1.6	0.5	3.0	1.0	13.1	80.9
Psychology	8,000	100.0	6.0	0.3	1.1	2.2	2.0	88.5
Public affairs & services	19,946	100.0	10.2	0.4	1.5	2.8	2.8	82.3
Social sciences	12,887	100.0	5.8	0.3	1.8	1.9	11.6	78.5
Theology	3,398	100.0	2.1	0.1	0.7	1.2	5.9	90.0
Interdisciplinary studies	4,553	100.0	4.1	0.5	1.2	1.3	4.3	88.7

*Includes U.S. Service Schools.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 5.--Percentage distribution of master's degrees among fields of study, by racial/ethnic group: 50 States and D.C.,* 1978-79

Field of study	Total	Black, non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Non-resident alien	White, non-Hispanic
All fields	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture & natural resources	1.3	0.4	0.5	1.9	0.6	3.7	1.2
Architecture & environmental design	1.0	0.6	0.6	1.7	1.1	1.8	1.0
Area studies	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.2
Biological sciences	2.3	1.1	0.6	3.7	1.2	2.4	2.4
Business & management	16.7	11.1	13.5	22.6	11.1	22.7	16.7
Communications	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.0
Computer & information sciences	1.0	0.3	1.6	2.7	0.5	2.4	0.9
Education	37.1	55.7	45.1	17.2	46.0	14.1	37.7
Engineering	5.1	1.3	2.4	15.5	3.6	20.4	4.0
Fine & applied arts	2.8	1.3	3.1	2.6	2.1	1.5	3.1
Foreign languages	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.7	3.6	1.1	0.8
Health professions	5.2	4.1	5.9	6.8	3.4	3.3	5.4
Home economics	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.9
Law	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.7	0.5
Letters	3.0	1.7	1.6	2.2	2.7	2.2	3.1
Library science	2.0	1.6	1.2	1.9	1.4	1.0	2.1
Mathematics	1.0	0.4	0.8	1.9	0.5	2.4	0.9
Military science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical science	1.8	0.4	2.9	2.9	0.9	3.6	1.8
Psychology	2.7	2.5	2.0	1.6	3.2	0.8	2.8
Public affairs and services	6.6	10.5	8.1	5.5	9.9	2.9	6.6
Social sciences	4.3	3.9	4.5	4.3	4.5	7.7	4.1
Theology	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.2
Interdisciplinary studies	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6

*Includes U.S. Service Schools.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 6.-- Distribution of doctoral degrees among racial/ethnic groups, by field of study: 50 States and D.C.,* 1978-79

Field of study	Total		Black, non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Non-resident alien	White, non-Hispanic
	Number	Percent	Percentage distribution					
All fields	32,675	100.0	3.9	0.3	2.5	1.3	12.0	80.0
Agriculture & natural resources	950	100.0	1.5	0	3.6	1.3	28.2	65.2
Architecture & environmental design	96	100.0	5.2	0	2.1	3.1	34.4	55.2
Area studies	133	100.0	9.0	0	2.3	2.3	7.5	78.9
Biological sciences	3,542	100.0	1.3	0.2	3.6	0.8	9.7	84.4
Business & management	863	100.0	2.1	0.3	1.4	0.6	18.9	76.7
Communications	192	100.0	5.2	0	1.6	1.0	8.9	83.3
Computer & information sciences	236	100.0	1.7	0	3.4	0.4	20.3	74.2
Education	7,731	100.0	8.1	0.6	1.3	1.8	6.4	81.9
Engineering	2,502	100.0	1.0	0.1	7.3	0.9	34.7	56.1
Fine & applied arts	700	100.0	1.7	0.4	1.0	1.0	5.6	90.3
Foreign languages	641	100.0	1.6	0.2	1.4	6.9	11.7	78.3
Health professions	718	100.0	2.8	0.3	1.8	0.6	11.3	83.3
Home economics	219	100.0	4.1	0	1.8	0	3.7	90.4
Law	46	100.0	4.3	0	4.3	2.2	37.0	52.2
Letters	1,924	100.0	3.7	0.2	1.4	1.0	6.3	87.5
Library sciences	70	100.0	2.9	0	1.4	0	8.6	87.1
Mathematics	730	100.0	1.8	0	4.0	0.8	22.2	71.2
Military science	0	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical sciences	3,102	100.0	1.5	0.3	3.9	0.7	15.7	77.9
Psychology	2,662	100.0	4.2	0.4	0.9	2.4	2.8	89.4
Public affairs & services	368	100.0	8.4	0.8	2.7	0.3	9.0	78.8
Social sciences	3,360	100.0	3.9	0.5	1.9	1.2	12.8	79.7
Theology	1,181	100.0	2.7	0.1	1.3	0.6	3.2	92.1
Interdisciplinary studies	709	100.0	2.1	0.3	2.4	1.7	14.0	79.5

*Includes U.S. Service Schools.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 7.--Percentage distribution of doctoral degrees among fields of study, by racial/ethnic group: 50 States and D.C.,* 1978-79

Field of study	Total	Black non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Non-resident alien	White, non-Hispanic
All fields	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture & natural resources	2.9	1.1	0	4.2	2.7	6.8	2.4
Architecture & environmental design	0.3	0.4	0	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.2
Area studies	0.4	0.9	0	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4
Biological sciences	10.8	3.7	5.8	15.7	6.4	8.8	11.4
Business & management	2.6	1.4	2.9	1.5	1.1	4.2	2.5
Communications	0.6	0.8	0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6
Computer & information science	0.7	0.3	0	1.0	0.2	1.2	0.7
Education	23.7	49.3	41.3	12.0	31.0	12.7	24.2
Engineering	7.7	2.0	1.9	22.6	5.0	22.1	5.4
Fine & applied arts	2.1	0.9	2.9	0.9	1.6	1.0	2.4
Foreign languages	2.0	0.8	1.0	1.1	10.0	1.9	1.9
Health professions	2.2	1.6	1.9	1.6	0.9	2.1	2.3
Home economics	0.7	0.7	0	0.5	0	0.2	0.8
Law	0.1	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1
Letters	5.9	5.6	2.9	3.2	4.3	3.1	6.4
Library science	0.2	0.2	0	0.1	0	0.2	0.2
Mathematics	2.2	1.0	0	3.6	1.4	4.1	2.0
Military science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical sciences	9.5	3.8	7.7	14.9	5.2	12.4	9.2
Psychology	8.1	8.8	9.6	2.8	14.6	1.9	9.1
Public affairs & services	1.1	2.4	2.9	1.2	0.2	0.8	1.1
Social sciences	10.3	10.4	16.3	8.0	8.9	11.0	10.2
Theology	3.6	2.5	1.0	1.8	1.6	1.9	4.2
Interdisciplinary studies	2.2	1.2	1.9	2.1	2.7	2.5	2.2

*Includes U.S. Service Schools.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 8.--Distribution of first-professional degrees among racial/ethnic groups, by field of study: 50 States and D.C.,* 1978-79

Field of study	Total		Black non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Non-resident alien	White, non-Hispanic
	Number	Percent						
					Percentage distribution			
All fields	68,611	100.0	4.1	0.3	1.8	1.9	0.9	91.0
Chiropractic (D.C.)	1,779	100.0	0.4	0.3	1.1	1.1	6.4	90.7
Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.)	5,434	100.0	3.3	0.4	3.6	1.6	0.9	90.2
Law, general	35,206	100.0	4.3	0.3	1.1	2.1	0.4	91.8
Medicine (M.D.)	14,786	100.0	5.2	0.3	2.5	2.2	0.6	89.3
Optometry (O.D.)	1,046	100.0	1.1	0	4.3	0.8	1.2	92.5
Osteopathic medicine (D.O.)	1,065	100.0	1.7	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.3	95.1
Pharmacy (D. Pharm.)	639	100.0	2.5	0.2	17.5	1.1	5.2	73.6
Podiatry or podiatric medicine (Pod. D.)	572	100.0	2.6	0	1.2	0.7	0.5	94.9
Theological professions, general	6,370	100.0	4.5	0.1	0.7	1.3	3.0	90.3
Veterinary medicine (D.V.M.)	1,714	100.0	2.2	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.6	95.0

*Includes U.S. Service Schools.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 9.-- Percentage distribution of first-professional degrees among fields of study, by racial/ethnic group: 50 States and D.C.,* 1978-79

Field of study	All groups	Black, non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Non-resident alien	White, non-Hispanic
All fields	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chiropractic (D.C.)	2.6	0.2	2.8	1.7	1.5	17.8	2.6
Dentistry (D.D.S. or (D.M.D)	7.9	6.3	10.6	16.1	6.6	8.0	7.9
Law, general	51.3	52.9	56.0	32.4	56.7	20.7	51.8
Medicine (M.D.)	21.6	26.9	17.6	30.6	5.3	13.7	21.2
Optometry (O.D.)	1.5	0.4	0	3.7	0.6	2.0	1.6
Osteopathic medicine (D.O.)	1.6	0.6	3.7	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.6
Pharmacy (D. Pharm.)	0.9	0.6	0.5	9.3	0.5	5.1	0.8
Podiatry or podiatric medicine (Pod. D.)	0.8	0.5	0	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.9
Theological professions, general	9.3	10.2	1.9	3.7	6.5	30.1	9.2
Veterinary medicine (D.V.M.)	2.5	1.3	6.9	0.8	1.1	1.6	2.6

*Includes U.S. Service Schools.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Technical Notes

1. Institutions are directed to report the total number of degrees awarded in the designated academic year, by level (bachelor's, master's, doctoral, or first-professional), discipline division (e.g., social sciences, engineering), by racial/ethnic status and by sex. Degree recipients who are not United States citizens and who are in this country on a temporary basis are counted as "nonresident aliens" regardless of their racial or ethnic background. All others are classified into one of the following racial/ethnic categories:

Black, non-Hispanic
American Indian or Alaskan Native
Asian or Pacific Islander
Hispanic
White, non-Hispanic

This report refers to these groups as: blacks, American Indians, Asians, Hispanics, whites, and nonresident aliens.

2. In the 1980 Census, two separate questions were asked to obtain counts of individuals by race and counts of the population of Spanish origin. By using the answers, it is possible to adjust the data to provide an unduplicated racial/ethnic count (see table on following page).

3. The findings in this study are based on final data collected as part of the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS) from the instrument survey entitled "Earned Degrees Conferred, 1978-79." This report is based on data collection from institutions within the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

The universe of inquiry was the 1,871 colleges and universities that could be identified as offering bachelor's or higher degrees during the period July 1, 1978, to June 30, 1979. The survey universe is based on the list of institutional units included in the Education Directory, Colleges and Universities, 1977-78, with such changes as were known to NCES in fall of 1978.

A total of 1,869 institutions responded to the survey for an overall response rate of approximately 99.9 percent.

4. Racial/ethnic data were imputed for an institution only when the missing information pertained to 15 percent or less of the degrees conferred. Such imputations involved less than 1 percent of the total racial/ethnic data for the survey universe in 1978-79. Imputations were derived from the institution's known, i.e., currently reported, data or the institution's response 2 years previously.

When more than 15 percent of an institution's racial/ethnic data was missing, an estimation procedure was used. This procedure was used for less than 3 percent of the institutions in the HEGIS XIV Education Survey (1978-79). Estimation differs

U.S. population, by racial/ethnic status: April 1, 1980

	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted percentage	Adjusted distribution
Total	226,504,825	226,504,825	100.0	100.0
White	188,340,790	180,219,919	83.2	79.6
Black	26,488,218	26,093,859	11.7	11.5
American Indian	1,418,195	1,330,560	0.6	0.6
Asian	3,500,636	3,339,971	1.5	1.5
Other	6,756,986	914,633	3.0	.4
Spanish		14,605,883		6.4

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Population Profile of the United States: 1980, Series P-20, No. 363, p. 3 and p. 9. Also U.S. Department of Commerce news release CB81-32.

rrom straight imputation in that, with estimation, the institution was consulted in the construction of the estimate. The estimate was based either on percentages as suggested by the institution, previous submissions, the current year's data, or by a combination of these three methods. When an institution was new to the survey universe, percentages were derived either from peer institutions, State data, racial/ethnic information from the HEGIS Fall Enrollment Survey, or from a combination of these sources.

5. The magnitude of the nonsampling error in this survey is unknown. Examples of nonsampling errors include inaccurate or incomplete reporting. The nonsampling error, however, is probably higher during alternate survey years when racial/ethnic data is collected, due to uncertainties regarding race/ethnicity of the students.